THE SYNTAX OF THE EXCLAMATION IN COLLOQUIAL MEXICAN

BY

LILLIAN HEJTMANEK

B.A., University of Idaho, 1932
A.M., University of Illinois, 1943

AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SPANISH
IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY
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THE SYNTAX OF THE EXCLAMATION IN COLLOQUIAL MEXICAN

This study of the syntax of the exclamation is based upon twenty Mexican dramas, all of this century. I chose comedies in order to make use of colloquial material. "'Colloquial' [to quote C. C. Fries, *American English Grammar*, page 9] simply means that a word occurs in good conversation, but not in formal writing. Unless one can assume that formal writing is in itself more desirable than good conversation, the language practises peculiar to conversation cannot be rated with those of formal writing. Each set of language practises is best in its own special sphere or use; one will necessarily differ from the other."

The work has been pursued from a purely descriptive point of view. I did not attempt any historical, psychological, or stylistic interpretation, nor did I take into consideration the problem of intonation as discussed by Tomás Navarro in his *Entonación española*. The material gathered is arranged throughout according to form. It was, however, not possible to eliminate completely elements of meaning, due to the nature of the subject matter.

Since the study is based entirely on printed material, the choice of examples has necessarily been arbitrary. In general, the cases used were those which the authors had marked by exclamation points; when a case appeared which in my opinion seemed to be an exclamatory word or phrase and yet was bounded by no exclamation points, it was included.

The models which served as a source of inspiration were Hermann Wunderlich's *Unsere Umgangsprache*, a study of colloquial German; Leo Spitzer's *Italienische Umgangssprache*; Johannes Hofmann's *Lateinische Umgangssprache*; and Werner Beinhauer's *Spanische Umgangssprache*. What investigation Beinhauer has made in colloquial Castilian, I have attempted to parallel in Mexican. The chief difference between the method used in the above studies and my own method lies in the stress on criteria of form. For the first chapter on interjections proper, Carstensen's study, *Die Interjectionen im Romanischen*, has been of great value.

The best way to present this material in the form of an abstract is to give the complete table of contents with one typical example of each case discussed. For technical reasons, the phonetic transcription is simplified.

Chapter One: Interjections

I. Interjections consisting of vowels
   A. Single vowels
      [*a, e, o, u*]
   B. Vowel combinations
      [*ai, au, ea, ui, ya*]

II. Interjections consisting of consonants
   [*bř, čst, čt, m, ps, pš, pst, xm*]

III. Interjections consisting of combinations of consonants and vowels
   A. Type CV
      [*ba, xa, xai*]
   B. Type VC
      [*uf*]
   C. Type CVC
      [*pam, pum, plim, trak*]
   D. Type VCV
      [*uxú*]
   E. Type CVCV
      [*fúče, súřa*]
   F. Type VCVC
      [*exém*]

IV. Duplication and triplication of interjections
   [*aiaiai, eaea, uyuyuy, yaya, břbřbř, pstpst, bababa*]

Chapter Two: Invariable Exclamations

[*ağjós, alelúya, berđağeđjós, bráďo, demónjo, dezgrasjağaménte, deďéras, djána, éxale, esosíkeno, épa, euréka, frixóles, kaďál, karakóles, karámba, karái, káspita, ké, kjá, kláro, komonó, maláya, miserikórđja, óla, ómbre, ořór, paláďra, peór, porsupwésto, ře-, úřa, yalokréo*]

Chapter Three: Variable Exclamations

I. Verbal Exclamations
   A. Containing the subjunctive
      1. Without an introductory word
         a. Active
            [¡Dios me *ampare*!]

b. Passive

[¡*Maldito sea* ese aguardiente!]

2. With an introductory word

a. *ojalá, ojalá y*

[¡*Ojalá encuentren* todavía a su hijo por allá!
¡*Ojalá y* lo *hubiera* dicho!]

b. *por lo que*

[¡*por lo que* más *quiera* en el mundo!]

c. *pues*

[¡*Pues* alabado *sea* Dios!]

d. *si*

[¡*Si* al menos *supiera* quién es ella!]

e. *como si*

[¡*Como si juera* mío!]

B. Containing the indicative, after an introductory word

1. *cómo*

[¡*Cómo* me *duelen* tus palabras!]

2. *cuando* (when referring to present or past)

[¡*Cuando* ni a mí me *cuadran* los sermones!]

3. *cuán, cuánto*

[¡Egoístas, *cuán* egoístas *son*!
¡*Cuánto dilata* Juanito!]

4. *hasta que*

[¡*Hasta que soy* rico!]

5. *qué*

a. *qué* plus verb

[¡*qué va*, señor coronel!]

b. *qué* plus adjective plus *ser, estar*, etc.

[¡*Qué tonta soy*!
¡*Qué bonita estás*!]

c. *qué* plus adverb plus verb

[¡*Qué bien* se *conoce* lo tonto que eres!]

6. *quién*

[¡*Quén* nos *iba* a dicir!]

7. *tan, tanto* plus noun and/or adjective plus *que* plus verb

[¡*Tan buena alhaja que es* su hijo!
¡*Tantos deseos que teníamos* de que viniera!]

8. *ya*

[¡*Ya 'staría* de Dios!]

C. Containing either subjunctive or indicative

1. *que*

a. Introducing the subjunctive expressing a wish

[¡*Que* se *haga* la voluntad de Dios!]

b. Introducing set subjunctive phrases used when a departed one is mentioned

[... las vi en tiempo de su padre—*que de Dios goce*—]

c. Introducing the indicative expressing a statement

[¡*Que* me *lleva* la corriente!]

d. *el que, lo que, la que* introducing indicative exclamations

[¡Animas y *las* ganas *que tengo* de llegar a Zacatecas!

¡*lo que son* las penas!

¡era *la que* me *faltaba*!]

2. *saber* phrases

[¡Quién *sabe*! ¡Qué *sé* yo! ¡Ni quen *sepa*!]

D. Infinitive Exclamations

1. Without an introductory word

[¡*Blasfemar*! ¿Qué es blasfemar?]

2. With an introductory word

a. *a*

[¡*A ver* si te presta también dinero, Lois!]

b. *cómo*

[¡*Cómo decir*lo!]

c. *hasta*

[¡*hasta* no *ver*te, Jesús mío!]

d. *y*

[¡*Y pensar* que ha sido por salvarnos!]

II. Non-Verbal Exclamations

A. Without an introductory word

1. Nouns and noun phrases

[¡*Santo Dios*! ¡*Jesús mil veces*! ¡*Madre mía de Jalpa*!]

2. Adjectives

[¡*Sabrosísimo*! ¡*imposible*!]

B. With an introductory word

1. *qué*

a. *qué* plus noun

[¡*Qué impertinencia*!]

b. *qué* plus adjective
[¡*Qué capaz*!]
c. *qué* plus noun and adjective
[¡*Qué situación horrible*!]
(1). *qué* plus noun plus *más* plus adjective
[¡*Qué tarde más hermosa*, don Miguel!]
(2). *qué* plus noun plus *tan* plus adjective
[¡*Qué ideas tan extravagantes*!]
d. *qué* plus invariable exclamation
[¡*Qué caray*!]
e. *qué de* ...
[¡Uy, *qué de* cosas!]
f. *qué* ... *ni qué*
[¡*Qué* huéspedes *ni qué* demonios!]

2. *cómo*
[¡*Cómo* libre!]
3. *cuán, cuánto*
[¡*Cuán* feliz la madre ...!
¡*Cuánto* jijo de un tal!]
4. *de*
[¡Ay *de* mí!]
5. *hasta*
[¡*hasta* la muerte!]
6. *por*
[¡*Por* la Virgen de Guadalupe!]
7. *tan, tanto*
[¡Esos infames, *tan* bandidos!
¡*Tanto* así!]
8. *vaya*
[¡*Vaya* un gusto de malgastar el dinero!]

Chapter Four: The Vocative

I. The Vocative introduced by the article or article substitute
A. *Su Merced*
[¡Qué gusto de ver a *sus mercedes* por aquí!]
B. *Señor, señora*
[Es de noche, en el cielo hay luna ... *la señora* es bella, y *el señor* está embriagado de amor ...]

C. *Patrón, amo*

[¿Sirvo aquí la cena a *los patrones*?
¿Y cómo ha seguido *el amo* don Juan de sus males?]

D. Miscellaneous

[Mande *la niña*.]

II. The Vocative not introduced by the article

A. Reinforced with a pronoun or adjective

[*Tú, Ramón* ... y *tú, López* ...
¡Ay, *Clotilde querida*!]

B. *Don, doña*

[¡Oh, *don* Teófilo! mala señal ...
¡Abrale pronto, *doña* Jesús!]

C. *Señor* and derivatives

[¡Qué, *señor* mío!
¡*Señora* mía! ¡Gran tratamiento!]

D. Family address

[*Padre, madre, hijo, viejo, hombre, mujer, criatura, nene, bebe, niño, chico, muchacho, tío, suegro*]

E. Address among friends and companions

[*Amigo, iudadano, compa, compañero, compadre, cuate, curro, chamaco, chico, hermano, mano, muchacho, vale, viejo*]

F. The use of *hombre, mujer*

[¡Vengo a curarte, *hombre*!
¡*Mujer, mujer*!]

G. Social position

[*Patrón, jefe, amo*]

H. Address by profession

[*Casero, capitán, doctor, licenciado, maestro, músico, teniente, sargento*]

I. Reference to animals

[*Animal, avecita, bruto, hormiga, mariposa, oveja, palomita, víbora*]

J. Reference to appearance

[*Chula, chatita, chinita, güera, linda, morena, prietita, primor*]

K. Reference to mentality and character

[*Asesino, barbaján, bárbaro, borracho, botarate, bribón, buscona, Caín, canalla, cobarde, condenado, chambón, descarado, descastado, desconfiado, desvergonzado, embustero, empecatado, escandaloso, estúpido, fifí ridículo, idiota, imbécil, in-*

capaz, ingrato, insolente, jijo, ladrón, lenguaraz, majadero, malagradecido, malino, malo, malvado, méndigo, mentiroso, miedoso, mustia, pícaro, pillo, piojo resucitado, ramera, renegado, tacaño, tonto vendido, viejo sinvergüenza]

L. Caressing expressions

[*Adoración, alma mía, alma de mi vida, amor, capullo de rosa, diosa, encanto, meco de mis pecados, mialma, mi vida, perlita, precioso, preciosidá, princesa, reina, tapatías de mi alma, tesoro*]

M. Invocations

[*Animas benditas del purgatorio, Dios del cielo, Madre mía de Talpa, Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, San Antoñito, Santo Cristo de San Juan de las Colchas, Señor de Araró, Virgen de los Remedios, Virgen Milagrosa de Talpa, Virgen Santa, Virgen Santísima de Guadalupe*]

III. Vocative suffixes

A. *-ito, -cito*

[*Chuchita, bebito, compadrito, jefecito, mamacita, mediquito, papaíto, probecito, viejito*]

B. *-illo*

[*Chiquillo, picarillo*]

C. *-uelo*

[*Tontuelo*]

Chapter Five: Commands

I. Verbal Commands

A. Imperatives

[*Acuérdate, anda, calcúlese, créeme, comprende, diga, figúrate, fíjate, imagínate, mira* (*mi, misté*), *oye* (*oy*), *sepa, vea, vamos, vaya*]

B. Infinitive commands

[¡*A ver*! ¡*A callarse* el hocicote! ¡*No provocar* escándalo!]

C. Fixed phrases

[*Tate, búigase, daca, déque, por lo que mas quiera*(*s*)]

D. Verbal suffix *-le*

[Ábra*le*, ánda*le*, apúnte*le*, córre*le*, da*le*, éntren*le*, jále*le*, éija*le*, úju*le*]

II. Non-Verbal Commands

A. Consisting of one word

1. Nouns

[¡*Auxilio*! ¡*Cuidado*! ¡*Silencio*!]

2. Adverbs

[¡*Adelante*! ¡*Arriba*, muchachos!]

B. Consisting of phrases

[¡*Abajo la huelga*! ¡*Manos arriba*! ¡*Pecho a la tierra*!]

Chapter Six: Greetings

I. Verbal Greetings

A. Verb initial

[¡*Anda* con Dios!]

B. Verb non-initial

1. Subjunctive expressions

a. Introduced by *que*

[¡*que* Dios te *acompañe*!]

b. Not introduced by *que*

[¡*Con El queden* ustedes!]

2. Indicative expressions

a. Introduced by a conjunction

[¡*Si* Dios *quiere*, don Pancho!
¡*Hasta que quiso* Dios!]

b. Introduced by an interrogative

(1). *¿cómo?*

[¿*Cómo* le *va*?]

(2). *¿qué?*

[¿*Qué hubo*?]

3. Infinitive expressions

a. *hasta*

[*Hasta* más *ver*.]

b. *para*

[*Para servir* a usted.]

II. Non-Verbal Greetings

A. The use of names or name substitutes

[¡Güero *Margarito*!
Mi estimado *amigo* ...]

B. Fixed phrases

[*Adiós, Ave María, hola, mucha suerte, qué tal, recuerdos, salud*]

C. *Bueno* phrases

[¡*Güenas tardes*! ¡*Buena suerte*, cuñado!]

D. Prepositional phrases

1. *a*

[*A* la orden, mi coronel.]

2. *con*

[*Con* permiso de ustedes, me voy ya.]

3. *hasta*

[¡*Hasta* moxtla!]

VITA

Lillian Hejtmanek was born in Perry, Oklahoma, April 19, 1908; received her elementary and secondary schooling in Buhl, Idaho; graduated from the University of Idaho in 1932; Spanish instructor in high school at Buhl, Idaho, 1933-1937; at Idaho Falls, Idaho, 1937-1942; assistant in Spanish at the University of Illinois, 1942-1947; received A.M. degree from the University of Illinois in 1943; spent four summers in Mexico with the Bradford Study Group.